limits. All workers in the uranium fuel plants are equipped with personal protective clothings, hand gloves, safety shoes and respirators. Air monitoring is carried out regularly and the radioactivity levels are kept well within the prescribed limits. Periodic medical examination of the workers is also carried out.

Procurement of rice by FCI in Andhra Pradesh

*70. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of adequate procurement of rice by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) added to problems of Andhra farmers; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to solve the problems of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. During the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2000-01 (October-September 71.72 lakh MTs of rice was procured in Andhra Pradesh as against 54.98 lakh MTs during the preceding year. The procurement during the KMS 2000-01 was the highest in the history of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

Growth rate of economy during Ninth Plan

*71. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the focus of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002) was on accelerated growth recognizing a special role for agriculture for its stronger poverty reduction and employment generating effects; and

(b) if so, the growth rate of the economy, growth of agricultural sector, reduction in number of people below poverty line and growth in employment generation during each year of the Ninth Five Year Plan and Plan as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The growth rate of the economy and that of agriculture sector during the first four years of the Ninth Five Year Plan is given below.